

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Claims 1 to 20 (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A method for the manufacture of multi-layer bristle material comprising a core which mainly determines a bending behavior of the bristle, a covering structure of continuous material mainly determining a brushing behavior of the bristle, and a layer intermediate between the core and the covering structure, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) co-extruding a core together with an intermediate layer covering said core, said intermediate layer being plastically deformable in liquid or viscous phase;
- b) ~~withdrawing said co-extruded core and intermediate layer such that said intermediate layer changes into a partially solidified state;~~
- c) ~~pre-tensioning a continuous material;~~ and
- d) ~~b)~~ applying said a pre-tensioned continuous material onto said intermediate layer following steps ~~b) and c) a)~~ to at least partially embed said continuous material in into said plastically deformable intermediate layer.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said intermediate layer is made from a material which is reactivatable after processing, and further comprising reactivating said intermediate layer following application of said continuous material

and returning said intermediate layer to a solid phase to at least partial embed said continuous material.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said intermediate layer comprises a foamable material and further comprising foaming said intermediate layer following application of said continuous material.
24. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising drawing said co-extruded core and intermediate layer prior to applying said continuous material in step ~~a)~~ b).
25. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising subsequent drawing of said core, said intermediate layer, and said continuous material following step ~~a)~~ b).
26. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising externally treating the bristle following application of said continuous material to said intermediate layer in step ~~a)~~ b).
27. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising longitudinally cutting open said continuous material at least over partial lengths of the bristle.
28. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising applying a film to said continuous material following application of said continuous material to said intermediate layer in step ~~a)~~ b).

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29. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein a textile material is applied as said continuous material.
30. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein one of a smooth and roughened textile material is applied as said continuous material.
31. (previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said textile material is wound on.
32. (previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said textile material is looped on.
33. (previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said textile material is absorbing.
34. (currently amended) A multi-layer bristle comprising:
- an extruded core mainly defining a bending characteristic of the bristle;
- an intermediate layer co-extruded together with said core to cover said core, said intermediate layer being plastically deformable in liquid or viscous phase; and
- a continuous material pre-tensioned wound or looped onto said intermediate layer and at least partially embedded in into said plastically deformable intermediate layer to adhere thereto, said continuous material forming a covering structure mainly defining a brushing characteristic of the bristle.

35. (previously presented) The bristle of claim 34, wherein said intermediate layer is made from a softer material than said core.
36. (previously presented) The bristle of claim 34, wherein said intermediate layer comprises a rubber-elastic material.
37. (previously presented) The bristle of claim 34, wherein said intermediate layer comprises a foamed material.
38. (previously presented) Method for using the bristle of claim 34 for a bristle configuration in brushes or paint brushes.
39. (previously presented) Method for using the bristle of claim 34 as an interdental cleaner.
40. (previously presented) Method for using the bristle of claim 34 for applying liquid or pulverulent media incorporated in a textile material.
41. (previously presented) Method for using the bristle of claim 38 for applying liquid or pulverulent media incorporated in a textile material.